

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services



VISION

Healthy Missourians for Life.

MISSION

To be the leader in promoting, protecting and partnering for health.

www.dhss.mo.gov

Director's Office

The oversight for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services comes from the director, who is responsible for the management of the department and the administration of its programs and services. The deputy department director assists the director in the management of the department and acts for the director in her absence. The divisions of Administration, Community and Public Health, Regulation and Licensure, and Senior and Disability Services; Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism; State Public Health Laboratory; the offices of Personnel, Planning and Development, Public Information, General Counsel, Governmental Policy and Legislation report to the director and deputy department director.

A State Board of Health and State Board of Senior Services advise the director regarding the priorities, policies and programs of the department and review rules promulgated by the department. The boards each consist of seven members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Missouri Senate.

Contact: Julia M. Eckstein, Director

573/751-6001

Division of Administration

The Division of Administration provides a variety of support services for the Director's Office and the programmatic divisions of the department. Services include budget administration; grant and contract administration; accounting and procurement functions; internal audit; maintenance of the inventory of physical assets warehouse, delivery and mailroom services; and building lease management.

Contact: Bret Fischer, Director

573/751-6014

Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism

The Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism is responsible for coordinating regional and state preparedness for public health emergencies and natural disasters, including biological, chemical and nuclear terrorism. Through partnerships with hospitals and other healthcare organizations, local entities including government and first responder agencies, and other partners, the center works to assure systems are in place to protect the health of Missourians during a public health emergency.

Contact: Bruce Clements, Director

573/526-4768

State Public Health Laboratory

The State Public Health Laboratory provides testing services in the fields of newborn screening, chemistry, environmental bacteriology, microbiology, serology and virology. Each year, more than 370,000 specimens are submitted to the lab for testing and examination. The laboratory is also responsible for approving methods and instruments and issuing permits to qualified individuals to perform tests used to enforce Missouri's law prohibiting driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Contact: Eric Blank, Director

573/751-3334

Division of Regulation and Licensure

The Division of Regulation and Licensure has responsibility for a spectrum of services for Missouri citizens from child care to elder issues to environmental regulations, as well as the Family Care Safety Registry, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Board of Nursing Home Administrators, and the Certificate of Need program.

The Section for Health Standards and Licensure is responsible for assuring that the care and services provided by hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, home health agencies, hospices, child-care providers, ambulances, paramedics, persons who prescribe or dispense controlled substances, and 23 types of Medicare/Medicaid-certified health programs meet state and/or Medicare/Medicaid standards. Periodic licensure inspections and investigation of concerns or complaints in any of these areas is part of the division's authority.

The Section for Long-Term Care is responsible for conducting state inspections and federal surveys, and for investigating complaints regarding long-term care facilities including residential care facilities I and II, intermediate care facilities and skilled nursing facilities. The section also monitors the compliance of federal requirements for the annual inspection of care and utilization review for Medicaid residents over 65 and under 21 years of age in psychiatric hospitals.

The Division also contains units that regulate or license entities that involve environmental health issues such as lodging facilities, onsite sewage disposal systems, lead remediators, industrial sources of radiation, milk rating, and frozen desserts.

Contact: David Durbin, Director

573/751-8535

Division of Senior and Disability Services

The Division of Senior and Disability Services serves as the State Unit on Aging, carries out the mandates of the State of Missouri regarding investigation and intervention in cases of adult abuse, neglect and financial exploitation, and provides oversight to programs and services for seniors and adults with disabilities. The Division implements programs designed to maximize independence and safety for adults who choose to remain independent in the community by administering state and federal community-based programs. In coordination with the department director, the division advises legislators, advocates, state agencies and other organizations and individuals regarding services and data available to support this function. The Division has four Bureaus responsible for program oversight, policy and budget recommendations, research and program initiatives, and implementation of state and federal programs, and a Central Registry Unit for receiving reports of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation, distribution for investigation, and tracking status.

Contact: Brenda Campbell, Director

573/526-3626

Division of Community and Public Health

The Division of Community and Public Health administers programs addressing chronic disease prevention and nutrition services; healthy families and youth, community protection and provides public health practice and administrative support. In addition, the Center for Local Public Health Services; Office of Minority Health; Office of Women's Health; Office of Primary Care and Rural Health; Office of Community and Public Health Emergency Coordination; and the Office of Epidemiology collaborate with programs and communities to set policy and integrate goals for the division.

The Section for Chronic Disease Prevention and Nutrition Services directs statewide programs that are designed to prevent and control chronic diseases for all Missourians and support the nutritional health of high-risk populations. The section provides leadership to assessment, planning and policy development and implementation of evidence-based approaches to prevent and control cancer and chronic diseases, the leading causes of death in Missouri. In addition, the section administers statewide programs that provide food assistance and nutrition services, early screening and detection, and health promotion interventions to reduce risk factors for chronic

diseases (e.g., tobacco use, physical inactivity, and poor diets.) These programs are managed through the Bureau of Cancer and Chronic Disease Control; Bureau of Health Promotion; Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs; and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Nutrition Services.

The Section for Healthy Families and Youth promotes optimal health by providing leadership to both the public and private sectors in assessing health care needs of families and communities and assuring that the health system responds appropriately. This section is also responsible for developing policy; planning systems of care; and designing, implementing and evaluating programs to meet the health care needs of families in the state of Missouri. The primary units are the Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood and the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs.

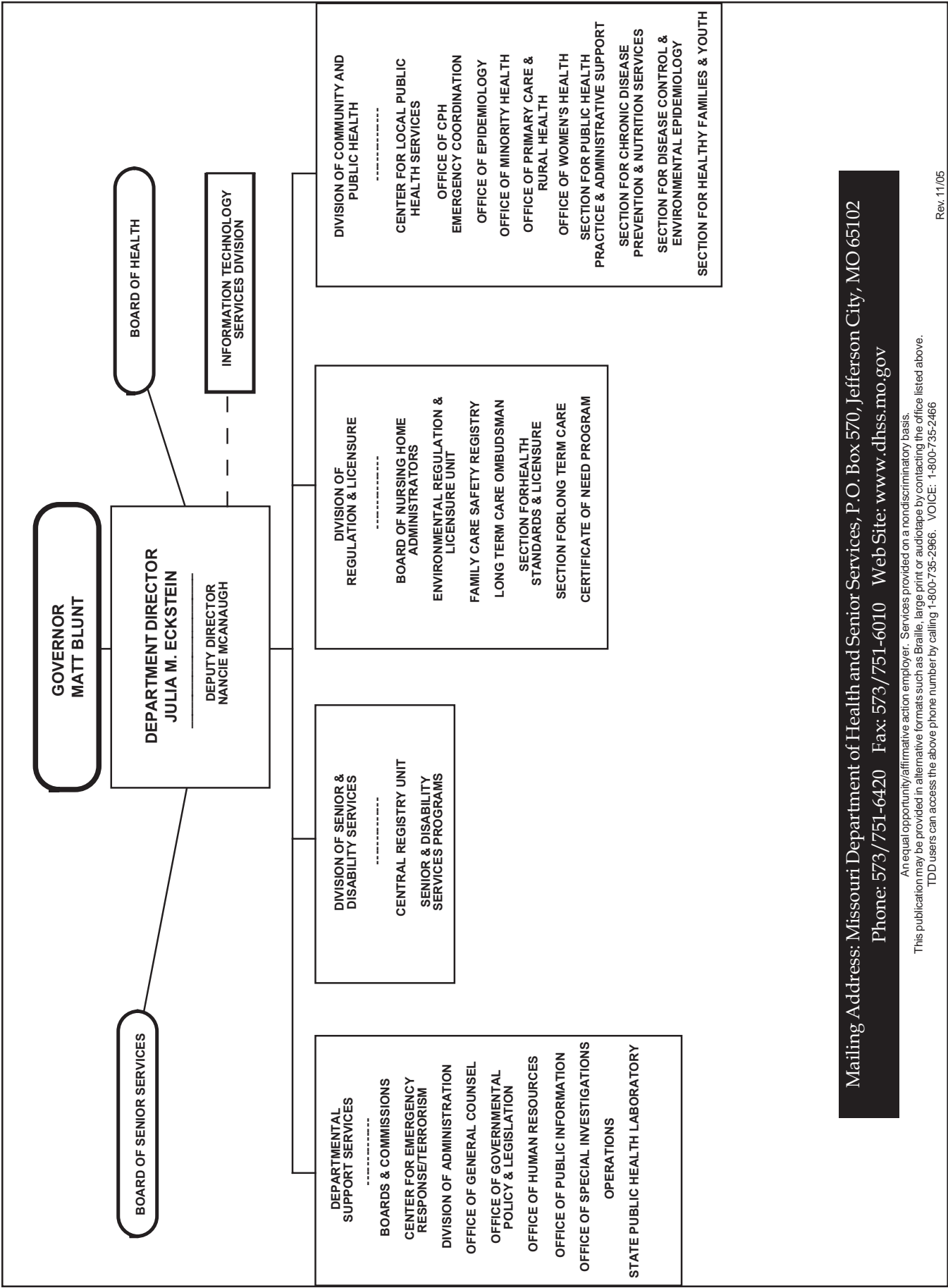
The Section for Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology is the principal section involved in the investigation of the cause, origin, and method of transmission of communicable (or infectious) diseases and environmentally-related medical conditions. The interrelated services focus on surveillance of diseases and the environment, upon which appropriate prevention and control interventions are based, including responses to disease outbreak situations. Included are specific responsibilities related to immunizations, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, other communicable diseases, food and water-borne illnesses, zoonoses (diseases that humans contract from animals), emerging infections such as SARS, Monkeypox, and West Nile Virus, food safety and protection, environmentally related health hazards (such as elevated blood lead levels) and hazardous substance control. The primary units are the Bureau of HIV, STD and Hepatitis; Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance; Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention; and the Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology.

In addition, the section is integral to the Department of Health and Senior Services' emergency responses to public health emergencies and natural disasters. The coordination of the division's activities preparing for and responding to emergencies, natural disasters, or terrorist incidents is achieved through the Office of Community and Public Health Emergency Coordination. The division has a wide array of responsibilities and expertise to protect public health related to biological, chemical, or radiological incidents, including the areas of food security, emerging diseases— such as avian influenza— and nuclear power plants. The office serves to coordinate these functions internally, and also department wide by working as a liaison with the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism.

The Public Health Practice and Administrative Support Section promotes a better understanding of health problems and needs in Missouri and assists the division in many functions including initiation and maintenance of surveillance systems, data management and reporting; collection of birth and death information; coordination of specific grants; public information dissemination; and fiscal services. The section also issues certified copies of Missouri birth and death records. These support services are available through the Office of Community Health Information; Bureau of Health Informatics; Grants Development, Management and Evaluation Unit; Bureau of Vital Records; and Bureau of Fiscal Services.

Contact: Glenda Miller, Director

573/751-6080



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